

FOREST DEFENDER

INDIANA FOREST ALLIANCE

Summer 2018

THE FIGHT FOR YELLOWWOOD: FAR FROM OVER

By IFA Staff

The State's plan to log part of the Yellowwood State Forest Back Country Area woke up a sleeping giant of public concern for our state forests. Though the area has now been logged, we are analyzing this struggle so we can redouble our efforts to protect the rest of this Back Country Area and other islands of wild nature throughout our state forests.

Last August, when the Indiana Division of Forestry announced plans to log in the Yellowwood Backcountry, IFA knew a unique treasure was being put on the chopping block, and we sprang into action. Because of our work on the Ecoblitz inventory in the forest that overlaps this area, we know it is home to 21 rare and endangered animals and hundreds of species never before identified in the state,

along with trees that started growing during the American Revolution. We know that top botanists in the state have rated the native, presettlement quality of its plant community to be one of the highest in the state, giving it a "floristic quality index" that surpasses that of most nature preserves in southern Indiana.

To save this forest, IFA undertook an intense grassroots outreach campaign. Volunteers across south central Indiana and Indianapolis canvassed door-to-door, distributing "Save Yellowwood" yard signs, and urging citizens to contact their legislators and Governor Holcomb to urge him to stop the sale. We organized phone canvassing and texting campaigns, generating 5,070 calls and emails to the Governor asking him to halt the sale. An inquiry to the Governor's office revealed the large number of opposing contacts the Governor received—compared with only 24 contacts in support.

Additionally, a letter signed by 240 Indiana scientists was delivered to Holcomb's office by retired Earlham College



Many large tulip poplars like this one were logged last winter in the Yellowwood Back Country Area. Photo by Jim Jean.

biology professor Leslie Bishop and was also published as a full page ad in the November 8 Brown County Democrat. The letter asked Holcomb to conserve major portions of state forests and allow them to return to old-growth conditions.

Supporters of the Save Yellowwood campaign also set up an encampment on private land adjacent to the area slated to be logged, to increase awareness of the sale, show the public the forest at stake and generate more public pressure to halt the logging.

In a November 7 TV interview, his only public utterance on the matter, Gov. Holcomb said he had not yet made a decision. "I want to review and read every word. That's what I do. I'm data-driven, but I think we share the same goal and that is to have healthy forests," said Holcomb. If he were data-driven, he would have considered the results of the IFA's Ecoblitz and agreed to meet with the scientists who authored the letter.

Despite overwhelming pressure, Governor Holcomb did nothing to halt the sale, which took place November 9. On that day, over 200 protesters assembled at the Yellowwood State Forest office to express their outrage that Hoosiers' voices were not being heard. Among those protestors was Daniel Antes, owner of Distinctive Hardwood Floors, who offered to buy

Story continues on page 6

The reaction from citizens across the state has catapulted the issue of logging in our state forests into the public's attention



On November 9, 200 forest advocates gathered to protest the sale of 1,700 trees at Yellowwood. Photo by Anne Laker.

Contents

The Fight for Yellowwood: Far From Over
By IFA Staff..... pages 1 & 6

A New Day For Forests In The Legislature
By Jeff Stantpage 2

From Lichens to Flying Squirrels: Ecoblitz Results Reveal Complexity of an Older Indiana Forest
By Rae Schnapp..... pages 4 & 5

Concealed Costs & Hidden Values: New IFA Report Questions Assumptions about Indiana's State Forest Logging Program
By Rae Schnapp.....page 7

News Briefs.....page 8

Forests For Indy Initiative Now Launched.....page 9

Protection of White River's Forested Corridor a Core Goal of Mounds Greenway Project
By Tim Maloney.....page 9

Volunteer & Donor Spotlights and IFA Staff News..... page 10

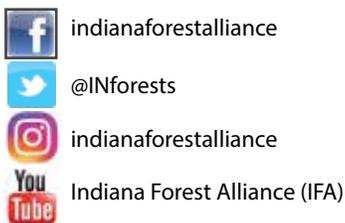
IFA Donor Listing..... page 11

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On the nameplate, front page: A pristine stream in Owen-Putnam State Forest immediately downstream from an area slated to be logged. Photo by Jeff Stant.

A NEW DAY FOR FORESTS IN THE LEGISLATURE MILESTONES REACHED IN THE 2018 SHORT SESSION

By Jeff Stant, IFA Executive Director

Ironically, the tragedy of Governor Holcomb's decision to allow logging to go forward in the Yellowwood Back Country Area gave our campaign to save parts of the state forests for nature and recreation a long-needed boost this year in the State Legislature. State Senators and Representatives had never heard so much from citizens upset about the logging in our state forests. They've never had to confront the issue so many times in "Third House" (town hall) meetings with constituents.

As a result, 12 senators (ten Republicans and two Democrats) authored or cosponsored Senate Bill 275, to set aside 30% of each state forest from logging. Those authoring the bill included Senators Bassler (R-Washington, the primary author), Koch (R-Bedford), Ford (R-Terre Haute), and Stoops (D-Bloomington). Twelve other senators (*see graphic*) from every region of Indiana except the northeast corner authored or cosponsored the bill.

After a lot of lobbying by the DNR and the Hardwood Lumbermen's Association, Senator Glick (R-LaGrange), chair of the

Senate Natural Resources Committee, refused to give the bill a hearing, stopping its advance. Still, this bill—to set aside more state forest acres than any previous Republican bill—was sponsored by one fourth of the Republicans in the Senate.

With the roadblock in the Senate, we turned to the House, seeking to set aside 10% of the state forest including all three Back Country Areas, in an amendment to other natural resource legislation on the House floor. The only available legislation for this amendment under House Rules was DNR's annual "house cleaning bill," HB 1292, authored by Representative Eberhart, chair of the House Natural Resources Committee, who opposes any legislation that would set aside any of the state forests from logging. A reluctance to buck the committee chair kept Republicans from offering the amendment, so we approached our long-time supporter, Representative Matt Pierce, for the job. With a Democrat from Bloomington offering this amendment, our expectations were low, but we felt it was time to make representatives take a stand.

We were once again pleasantly surprised by this vote. Six representatives rose to speak on the amendment: two Democrats, Pierce and Hamilton (Indianapolis), and four Republicans, Schaibley (Carmel), Cook (Cicero), Borders (Jasonville) and Eberhart (Shelbyville). After the first three Republicans gave personal stories of how the logging had negatively affected them, only Eberhart spoke against the amendment—stating that he "hated to be the bearer of bad news," but that Governor Holcomb had authorized him let his colleagues know that Holcomb opposed this amendment. Thirteen Republicans defied that statement and joined all 22 Democrats present to support the amendment. Nevertheless, it was defeated 35 to 50, with 7 Republicans and 8 Democrats abstaining or being absent.

Still the energy was on our side. We were told the House Republican Caucus had a lively discussion about the issue before the vote and that caucus leaders did not instruct members how to vote, something they would have done if the leadership strongly opposed the amendment. Republicans voting against the amendment told us afterwards they wanted to talk to us further about the issue.

This was the first vote on the floor of either chamber of the Indiana General Assembly about logging in our state forests since the legislature created the state forests in 1903. Considering that Governor Holcomb, the leader of the Republican Party in Indiana,

This was the first vote on the floor of either chamber of the Indiana General Assembly about logging in our state forests since the legislature created the state forests in 1903.

had let it be known that he opposed the amendment, we did well to garner 13 Republican votes in support of it.

Our forward movement will continue to hinge on the relationships we build with legislators. We did well because legislators heard from you.

Let's not let the logging slip out of their consciousness. Please thank those senators who authored or cosponsored SB 275 (this includes David Niezgodski, D-South Bend, who is not pictured with this article) and representatives who supported the Pierce amendment. Check the blog on IFA's web page to find out how your representative voted. Talk to your senator and representative to ask them to support a more balanced management of our state forests if they're not pictured here. And plan to speak out on the forest issue at any further town halls that legislators hold this year. One is being planned for November on Indianapolis' northside. Stay tuned! ♦



On Feb. 1, Rep. Matt Pierce (D-Bloomington) introduced a floor amendment to set aside 10% of state forests from logging.

THANK THESE REPUBLICAN REPRESENTATIVES FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF INDIANA'S FORESTS

B. Borders	S. Bartels	R. Bacon	T. Cook	G. Beumer
R. Lyness	D. Hamm	J. Pressel	C. May	D. Schaibley
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E. Bassler	J. Ford	E. Koch	
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Leslie Bishop and Jerome Delbridge study the size and age of a snag tree. Photo by Samantha Buran.

FROM LICHENS TO FLYING SQUIRRELS: ECOBLITZ RESULTS REVEAL COMPLEXITY OF AN OLDER INDIANA FOREST

By Rae Schnapp, Ph.D.,
IFA Conservation Director

What do we know about the wildlife and quality of the ecosystem in a 900-acre, unmanaged, tract of older Indiana state forest? And why do we need to know? Because knowing what life exists in an older forest should be very important information for the State to consider when it decides whether to log that forest.

As IFA members know, the Ecoblitz is a four-year comprehensive baseline inventory of forest life in a section of the Yellowwood and Morgan-Monroe State Forest Back Country Area in Monroe and Brown counties. The Ecoblitz provides a more complete picture of the biological diversity in older, all-aged, hardwood forests. No such inventory has ever been done before on the state or national forest lands in Indiana.

IFA staff and consulting scientists presented the preliminary results of the Ecoblitz last March at the Indiana Academy of Science 2018 annual meeting. Key questions answered:

1 What are the characteristics of this forest?

Leslie Bishop, Ph.D., Professor Emerita of Biology from Earlham College, and science advisor to the Indiana Forest Alliance, presented the preliminary results of a study to characterize this forest. The Ecoblitz area of Morgan-Monroe/Yellowwood State Forests has characteristics of a

mature forest returning to the old growth condition such as large trees, abundant snags and woody debris. These old growth characteristics are comparable to those in several Indiana nature preserves. "It's a textbook example of a mature forest, indicating progression toward secondary old growth," Dr. Bishop reported. From tree core data, the average tree age is 114 years old, with the oldest tree (an American Beech) being 233 years old. In addition, an analysis of the herbaceous community by top botanists in the state shows that this forest retains the historic diversity of vascular plants characteristic of a mature deciduous forest of Indiana's Highland Rim Natural Region and one of the highest floristic qualities for an undisturbed native plant community measured in an Indiana forest.



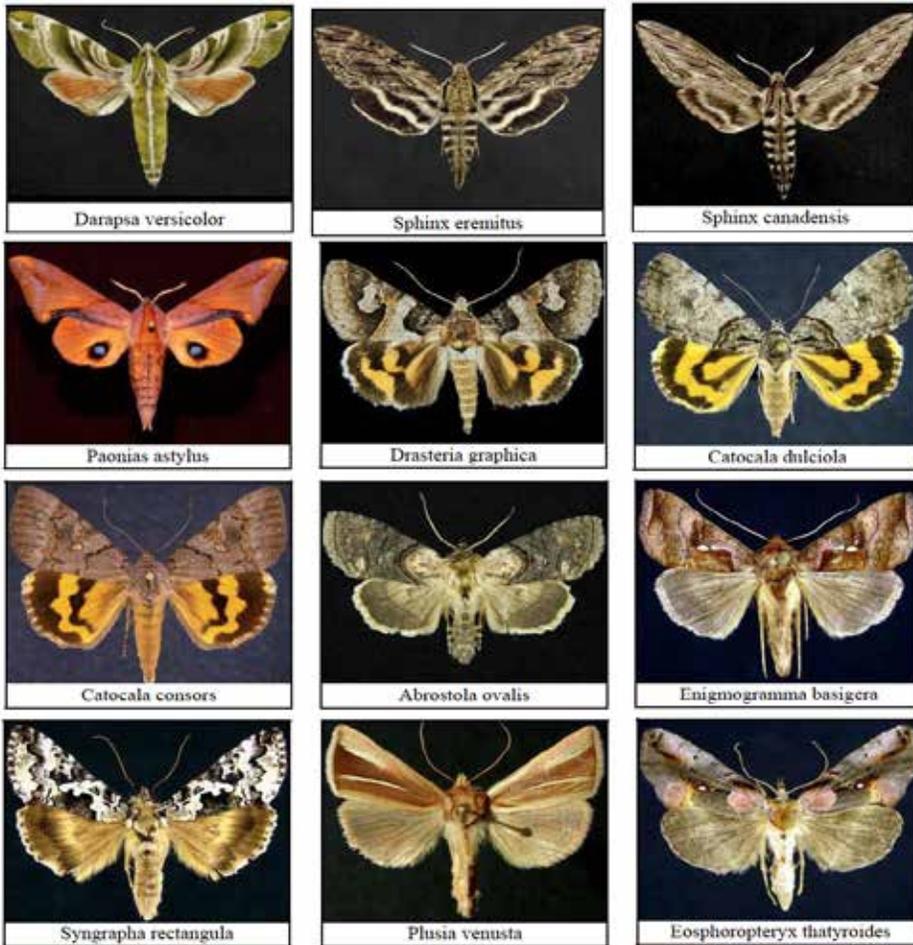
The pygmy shrew is a species of special concern dependent upon undisturbed forest. Photo by M. Hows.

2 How are bats and other mammals faring in this older forest?

Jeremy Sheets, senior wildlife biologist at Orbis Environmental, reported on mammals in the forest: 29 species were found (of the 59 mammal species native to Indiana). "We observed mink, coyote, red fox and bobcat, as well as white-tailed deer, flying squirrels and shrews," he said. "Two species, the pygmy shrew and smoky shrew, are 'species of special concern' in Indiana found only in the deepest forests in the state." Mammalogists with Environmental Solutions & Innovations netted five species of bats and found strong acoustical evidence of three additional species in 2016 and 2017. Seven of these eight bats are endangered or rare. They also found two maternity roosts of the Indiana Bat and other suspected roosts, concluding that a maternity colony of these federally endangered animals exists in the forest. "Mature forests may not have many game species, but some species are found only in mature forests," said Sheets.

3 Are cerulean warblers successfully reproducing in this forest?

Yes. David Rupp of IndiGo Birding Nature Tours and the bird team sought this particular migratory bird, which is on the state of Indiana's endangered species list. "This species winters in South America, then migrates to eastern North America to nest," said Rupp. "It prefers contiguous, mature forest with complex canopy structure." Listening for their mating songs and spotting their nests in the forked limbs of tree tops, Rupp and team found 10 male territories in mature forest along creek beds and adjoining slopes, including two nests where baby birds successfully fledged. One of those nests was rebuilt by the parents after their first fledglings were apparently eaten by predators. In the study overall, 68 bird species were identified.



A mosaic of moths found in the Ecoblitz zone by lepidopterist Leroy Koehn.

4 How many, and what types, of bees and moths inhabit the forest?

Lepidopterist Leroy Koehn, who's collected moths at sites across the nation, remarked on the significant species richness in the forest. In more than 50 years studying moths, only the Smokey Mountains National Park has yielded a higher moth diversity from an eastern hardwood forest. He identified nearly 1,300 different moth species in the Ecoblitz forest between April 2017 and January 2018, some never before seen in Indiana.

In the first bee survey ever done in an Indiana forest, entomologist Dr. Rob Jean found 183 bee specimens representing 54 bee species, and all 5 major bee families in Indiana. "Bees are important forest pollinators and forests offer good nesting habitat," said Jean. This summer's Ecoblitz efforts may determine if the federally endangered rusty patched bumble bee might still exist in these forests where it was once reported prior to a major decline.

5 How many lichens were found, and why are they important?

Lichenologist James Lendemer, Ph.D., serves on staff at the New York Botanical

This relatively undisturbed forest ... has great species complexity and richness in the absence of intense forest management.

Gardens. IFA invited him to conduct a lichen survey in this forest in 2017, the first study of lichens from an Indiana forest in more than 70 years. Lichens are a symbiotic combination of algae and fungus that require very specialized conditions. In the Ecoblitz area, Lendemer collected 406 lichens and found 108 different species. "More than half were found fewer than three times, indicating great diversity," he said. Lendemer's work made a decisive

contribution to Indiana science. Some 64 of the species he found had not been known to exist in the state.

6 What can we conclude?

After four years, the Ecoblitz has catalogued 3,131 species (with at least 1,000 more to come as a large batch of insects is identified by faculty and students at Hanover College). This relatively undisturbed forest in the Back Country Area (BCA) of Morgan-Monroe State Forest has great species complexity and high species richness in the absence of intense forest management.

In her summary of Hanover's work to identify insects from this forest, entomologist Dr. Glené Mynhardt stated, "We have been working for more than a year to identify the insect specimens from this forest in our laboratory. It will take all of the rest of this year to finish identifying the hundreds of different beetles and wasps, particularly the parasitic wasps that each have a unique relationship with another host invertebrate in this forest. What we know is that there is so much that we don't know about this forest and how it operates."

About 130 acres of this forest were logged this winter, but more than 2,000 acres of the BCA remain intact. IFA is concluding the Ecoblitz in this forest this year and preparing a final report for the state, Indiana Academy of Science, and the Natural Areas Conference October 23-25. Dr. Leslie Bishop concludes: "The mountain of data and information collected from this forest through the Ecoblitz make it an invaluable resource as a set-aside reserve for understanding natural aging processes of forests." ♦



Cerulean warblers have good nesting and fledgling success in the towering trees of the Ecoblitz forest. Photo by Angie Dämm.

The Indiana Forest Alliance is grateful to the Indiana Academy of Science for providing a venue to present these findings, and to these funders and organizations for their multi-year support of the Ecoblitz: Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Efroymsen Family Fund, the Amos Butler Audubon Society, Indiana Academy of Science, Hoosier Environmental Council, Knob and Valley Audubon Society, Hoosier Herpetological Society, Indiana Plant and Wildflower Society, and Hoosier Mushroom Society.

The Fight for Yellowwood: Far From Over continued

the acreage for \$150,000 on behalf of Bobby R. Bartlett, owner of Castlewood Inc., a flooring company based in Tell City, Indiana. However, Antes was not allowed to bid, and the trees were eventually sold for just \$108,785, or \$62.88 per tree.

On December 20, 2017, IFA members saw logging trucks emerge from the backcountry area, and all trail access was closed off to the public. Hamilton Logging, the winner of the bid, moved in quickly with their industrial logging equipment to cut the trees they purchased. Commercial logging in this area has apparently been completed, but “timber stand improvement” activities to girdle (kill) hundreds of American Beeches, red maples and other trees not marked in the sale are



An Eastern Box Turtle is a casualty of logging, despite the DOF's claims of regard for wildlife. Photo by Jim Jean.

continuing. Public access to the logging area, including portions of the Tecumseh Trail and the trail that connects to it from Possum Trot Road, is still prohibited.

At first glance, the Save Yellowwood campaign seems to have an unhappy ending, but in fact, the reactions from citizens across the state to this callous logging have catapulted the issue of logging in our state forests into the public's attention. “Save Yellowwood” signs have made a major impact on public discourse surrounding the issue of logging in our state forests, and during the legislative session, an unprecedented number of Senators co-sponsored legislation to set aside 30% of our state forests from logging—three times the set-aside acreage proposed in previous legislation.

Most importantly, 85% of the Yellowwood Backcountry has yet to be logged, and deserves saving.

Ultimately, the state forest logging issue will only be resolved by a change in the policies, and if necessary, the laws that govern our state forests. That will only happen after public awareness has greatly increased. The Yellowwood tragedy is raising that awareness and with it, a growing demand to save more of the wild nature in our state forests for the public's benefit. Onward! ♦



The forest is no longer a forest when logging roads turn them into a muddy mess. Photo by Jeff Stant.



Within the timber sale area, DOF has killed hundreds of American Beeches, red maples, and other trees that were not marked or sold in the sale, by girdling or cutting their cambium tissue. Their objective is to artificially promote the oak hickory forest type, not the primitive, natural forest that this Back Country Area represents. The BCA was established for Hoosiers to enjoy. Photo by Jim Jean.

CONCEALED COSTS & HIDDEN VALUES

NEW IFA REPORT QUESTIONS ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT INDIANA'S STATE FOREST LOGGING PROGRAM

By Rae Schnapp, IFA Conservation Director

Friends and members of the Indiana Forest Alliance have long criticized the Indiana Division of Forestry's (DOF) agenda as short-sighted and timber industry-driven. Do we even know the price we pay for the state's aggressive logging? Are there viable alternatives to the status quo?

Yes and yes. For the past two years, the Indiana Forest Alliance has been working with Key-Log Economics, a firm specializing in natural resource economics, and economist Morton Marcus, to produce an original, in-depth report called "Concealed Costs & Hidden Values: The Role of State Forests in Indiana's Economy." This report was produced with financial support generously provided by Terry & Constance Marbach, the Namaste Foundation, Inc., and the Robert R. and Gayle T. Meyer Family Fund. Legislators, the media, and forest advocates are about to get new insights into these issues:



Ferdinand State Forest is one of the few state forest properties that currently charges gate entrance fees. This example could be expanded to other state forests to generate revenue from our standing state forests without logging. Photo by Rock Emmert

1: CONCEALED COSTS IN STATE FOREST ACCOUNTING

The DOF documents its revenue from logging, and depends on that revenue to fund its work. But the DOF is not accounting for some of the most direct costs, such as staff time for timber management, harvest planning and the control of invasive plants that spread from the logging. And does the DOF acknowledge the true toll of its logging on county roads and bridges? The report probes this significant lack of transparency and reveals that the DOF is selling timber from our state forests at prices well below market value for private timber sales.

2: THE HIDDEN VALUE OF STANDING FORESTS

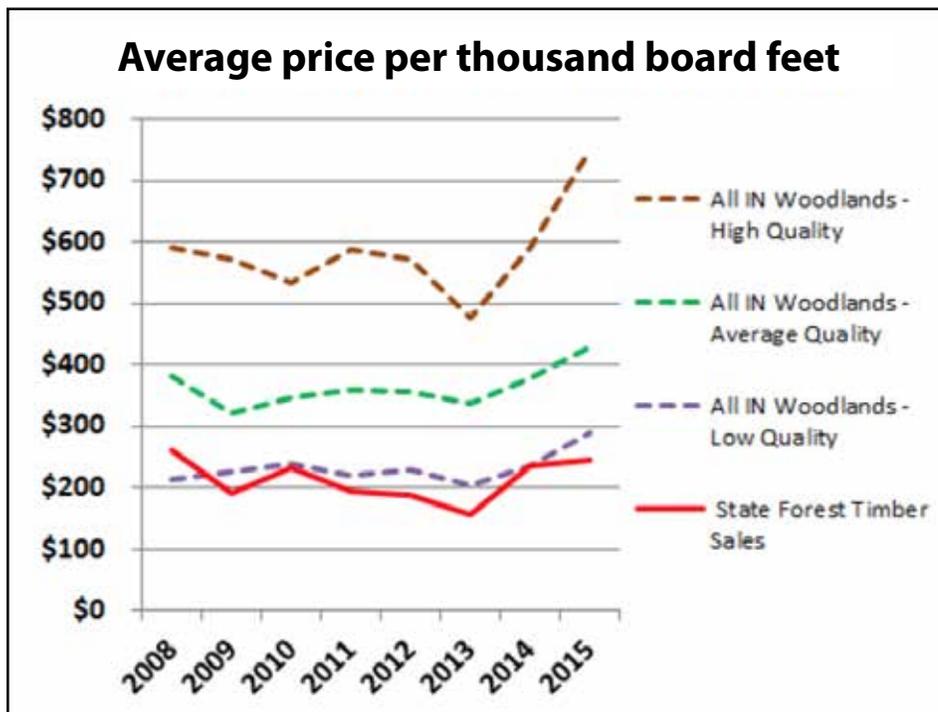
IFA's report quantifies the value of the ecosystem services that our state forests provide when left standing. These include recreational and aesthetic values as well as provision of wildlife habitat, water filtration, carbon fixation, and more. The annual ecosystem services values far exceed the value of timber sales and could more than double in value to over \$2.1 billion if state forests were used for recreation instead of logging. The report examines ways to monetize these ecosystem services including the potential to generate revenue from wilderness recreation user fees. For example, a modest \$5 user fee could generate funds that would completely replace funds generated from timber harvests in our state forests.

3: THE STATE OF INDIANA'S STATE FORESTS

What does "forest health" mean? Taking the long-view, we examine how our state forests were originally imagined, compared to current management strategies and how that management impacts the ecological sustainability and recreational value of our state forests. Our state forests are not just an agricultural commodity for the timber industry. We propose changes that will create more balanced mixed use of our state forests.

Look for the wide release of this watershed report this fall. ♦

The Indiana Forest Alliance gratefully acknowledges the support of Terry & Constance Marbach, Namaste Foundation, and the Meyer Family Fund for production of "Concealed Costs & Hidden Values." This report is a collaboration among IFA staff past and present, plus economist Morton Marcus, director emeritus of the Indiana Business Research Center at Indiana University's Kelley School of Business, and Spencer Phillips and Carolyn Alkire, Ph.D. consultants for Key-Log Economics.



State Forest timber sales are fetching prices below private timber sales. This data was compiled by IFA based on open records requests, and information from the Indiana Consulting Foresters Stumpage Timber Price Reports published by the Indiana Woodland Steward (www.inwoodlands.org).

News Briefs



IFA Members React Against Proposed Bobcat Rule

When the DNR announced a proposal this spring to establish a bobcat trapping season, and another to euthanize all “nuisance” coyotes, raccoons and opossums, IFA members spoke out. Both of these rules would have treated forest-dwelling wildlife as exploitable resources without ethical regard or scientific basis. IFA’s science advisor, biologist Leslie Bishop, presented a powerful statement against the bobcat trapping season and IFA’s Executive Director testified against both rules at a hearing in Anderson. On May 15, after much public pressure, led in large part by the Indiana Chapter of the Humane Society, the DNR announced that the rules would not be enacted. Victory! ♦



Frances Slocum State Forest will be logged along the Mississinewa River. Photo by Nick Joseph.

State Announces Plan to Log an IFA-designated “Wild Area”

In their mission to log through 97% of our state forests, the Division of Forestry has set its sights on Starve Hollow, in Jackson-Washington State Forest between Bedford and Seymour. Starve Hollow’s 1,500 acres are traversed by the rugged 5-mile Turkey Roost Trail which follows steep ridges with stunning views and crosses a pristine

hollow that opens into Starve Hollow Lake. Also slated for logging is Frances Slocum State Forest near Peru—one of the smallest in the state. The plan will cut almost 1/3 of the entire state forest, along the scenic Mississinewa River. And in Owen-Putnam State Forest, almost 2,000 trees on 180 acres were sold off to loggers for \$46 a tree. Thanks to all IFA members who filed comments against these plans. ♦

Federal Farm Bill Provisions May Enable More Logging in National Forests

Good news: A Farm Bill filled with timber industry giveaways failed to pass the U.S. House of Representatives. That version of the Farm Bill would have allowed logging in areas of ten square miles in our national forests, lifted protections on endangered species, and weakened foundational environmental laws. The other good news is that the Senate Agricultural committee kept these provisions out of its version of the bill. Thanks are owed to Sen. Joe Donnelly, a member of the Senate Ag committee, for standing firm against these provisions. Now, we await the ultimate reconciliation of the Farm Bill. ♦



Haverstick Woods advocates have filed a complaint in Marion County Court. Photo by Samantha Buran.

What’s Next for Haverstick Woods on Indy’s Northwest Side

When a wealthy developer’s plan to cut down a forest in congested northeast Indianapolis was rejected by the Marion County Metropolitan Development Commission, a city-county councillor pushed the project through the Indianapolis City-County Council—without input required by regulations from nearby residents who stand to be most adversely impacted. In late May, IFA and the Driftwood Hills Neighborhood filed a complaint in Marion County Court seeking to overturn the Council’s politically influenced and controversial decision. Neighbors deserve a fair voice in all dialogues about developments that impact forests. ♦

The Status of Crown Hill North Woods in Indianapolis

Remember last year’s stunning victory to prevent the Veterans Administration from cutting down a forest with 200+ year-old trees in Indianapolis’ Crown Hill Cemetery? After an intervention from Sen. Joe Donnelly, Mayor Joe Hogsett and other elected officials, the VA agreed to save the forest by building the veterans’ memorial on an adjacent open lawn. It appears that construction has not yet begun in the new space, although IFA has commented on a draft Environmental Assessment to finalize the land transfer between Crown Hill and the VA that will save the woods for the time being. IFA continues to communicate with the leadership at Crown Hill about a long-term preservation plan for the woods. ♦



"To maintain forested areas in our city for future generations, we must actively seek to protect this land from development," said Forest for Indy Project Director Jerome Delbridge at the project launch event, May 21 in Brookside Park.

"FORESTS FOR INDY" INITIATIVE NOW LAUNCHED

Thanks to funding from Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust, Ann M. & Chris Stack, and the Amos Butler Audubon Society, IFA just launched a project to identify and preserve the most vulnerable forests in Indianapolis, before they succumb to development.

"As more people choose to live in the city, the more green space we'll need--but the less we are likely to have--unless we create a plan for forest preservation," says Project Director and arborist Jerome Delbridge.

Urban forests, as we know, provide vital services to cities. Forests for Indy will roll out in three phases: expert mapping of the remaining forests, assessment of their value and the ecosystem services they provide, and developing public and private preservation strategies. To match the initial grants, IFA seeks to raise \$10,000 via a crowdfunding campaign for Forests for Indy. Make a donation at www.gofundme.com/forests-for-indy. ♦



The White River is flanked by a bottomland hardwood forest. Photo by Ryan McCracken

PROTECTION OF WHITE RIVER'S FORESTED CORRIDOR A CORE GOAL OF MOUNDS GREENWAY PROJECT

By Tim Maloney,
Hoosier Environmental Council

Along the White River between Muncie and Anderson lies a forested riparian corridor of roughly 2,000 acres. In the heart of this section is Mounds State Park, with a splendid bottomland hardwood forest featuring towering bur oak, sycamore, silver maple, sugar maple, American elm, black walnut, tulip poplar, hackberry, and red maple, with American bladdernut, dogwood and gooseberry found in the understory.

The conservation of this forested river corridor, and protection of the free-flowing White River, are at the heart of the proposed Mounds Greenway, a linear park and trail system connecting Muncie to Anderson, and ultimately extending downstream to Indianapolis.

Now supported by nearly 60 organizations and businesses, along with five mayors

representing communities along the river, the Mounds Greenway is gaining growing attention as Indianapolis and Hamilton County embark on a new White River strategic planning process. In the last year, Mounds Greenway advocate, the Hoosier Environmental Council (HEC), has completed a Mounds Greenway Routing Alternatives and Land Acquisition Plan, and a site-specific implementation strategy for the greenway in Chesterfield. HEC continues to meet with landowners along the river corridor to discuss opportunities for land acquisition and trail rights of way.

Mounds Greenway events coming up this year include river clean-ups, float trips, and our fourth annual Ride for the Mounds bicycle tour. HEC greatly appreciates the continuing support and assistance of the Indiana Forest Alliance in this critically-important conservation project. ♦

Visit moundsgreenway.org to learn more.

IN MEMORIAM



WILLIAM PARKER HURLEY, JR.

(1942 - 2018)

We will never forget him. IFA board member and southeastern Indiana (Clark County) forest advocate Bill Hurley passed away May 9 at the age of 75, after a brief illness. Bill was a retired attorney who was a founding member of Friends of Leota Wild Area and an advocate for the Knobstone Trail and Clark State Forest. A devoted hiker, he achieved a long-term goal of hiking to the highest elevation points in 49 states. He was a methodical environmental advocate committed to dialoguing with lawmakers. In lieu of flowers, Bill's family asked for contributions to IFA or Sierra Club. An anonymous donor has given \$5,000 to IFA in Bill's memory, and others who knew Bill are invited to donate in his honor to IFA. You will be missed, Bill.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT:

LIZ PINNICK



Some people are 100% committed. It's true of Liz Pinnick. Since attending IFA's Toast to the Trees event in 2016 and learning about the vulnerability of

Indiana's forests, Liz has made time in her busy life--as owner of Lark, a vintage furniture and decorative arts resale business she operates out of Midland Art & Antiques Market in Indy--to support the forest cause.

Liz volunteers on all fronts. She picketed in the bitter cold at a Crown Hill North Woods rally last year. She invited all her

friends to buy tickets to last summer's Forest-Foraged Feast, and bought a table as well. She spoke out on camera at last November's Yellowwood timber sale. And she organized a silent auction that raised over \$2,000 at the Wild & Scenic Film Fest in January. To top it off, she shares IFA's posts on social media on a daily basis.

For all this, Liz was recognized with a volunteer of the year award at last fall's IFA member meeting. She's now serving on two event planning committees: the July 29 Forest-Foraged Feast, and the Sept. 29 Toast to the Trees. Thanks, Liz, for your dedication.

GRANTS POWER IFA'S WORK

IFA has received generous grants and major gifts from local and national foundations over the past nine months:

- For local coalition-building: Herbert Simon Family Foundation, Change Happens, Patagonia Works, Heartwood
- For the Ecoblitz: Efromyson Family Fund
- For Forests for Indy: Dr. Laura Hare Charitable Trust, Ann M. & Chris Stack, Amos Butler Audubon Society
- For IFA's Wild Indiana campaign outreach: McKinney Family Foundation

If you know of local family foundations that are a fit for supporting IFA's work, contact the IFA office at 317-602-3692. ♦

STAFF CHANGES



Nick Joseph



Lora Bowman

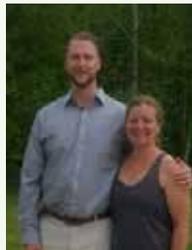
There are two new faces and in the IFA office and some new roles, too. In January, we welcomed Nick Joseph as a community organizer and phone canvasser. Don't be surprised to get a call from Nick, inviting you to call your legislator or renew your IFA membership. Nick says: "After staffing the Yellowwood resistance camp, I wanted to do more to help save Indiana's beautiful wilderness."

Lora Bowman joined the IFA staff in April as Bookkeeper/Office Manager. "As an avid hiker, protecting Indiana's native forests for future generations means a great deal to me." Her diverse experience includes accounting, client care, and team support, having worked for Meals on Wheels and Dillman Law Group.

In a staff reorganization, Sandra Messner is now serving as Development Director, and Samantha Buran is Development Coordinator. "These new roles play to staff strengths and are geared to position IFA for a robust future," said Executive Director Jeff Stant. ♦

DONOR SPOTLIGHT:

KELLIE PARK & ZACH MILLER



Kellie Park and her husband, Zach Miller, both grew up in Madison, Indiana. In 2014, Kellie, an anesthesiologist, and Zach, an attorney,

purchased a home on 40 acres, adjacent to Jackson-Washington State Forest near Starve Hollow State Recreation Area.

Then, they had a rude awakening. They learned about the Division of Forestry's (DOF) plans to conduct four separate timber sales that year in Jackson-Washington.

"We joined IFA because we both have a science background, and we believe in science-based decision making when it comes to protecting public assets—

which is what our state forests are. They are owned by Indiana taxpayers, not the timber industry," said Kellie.

Kellie attended an IFA-sponsored hike in Jackson-Washington State Forest in late April and heard DOF staff incorrectly insist that the 1901 legislation that created the state forests mandated logging.

Kellie reacted: "For a long time, people used leeches to try to manage diseases, despite scientific evidence that there was a better way. Managing forests for optimum timber value because that's how we have historically done it, is just wrong." We thank Kellie and Zach for supporting IFA's efforts to defend Indiana's forests with a monthly recurring donation. Please consider your own monthly donation.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

As IFA makes the case for less logging in our state forests, we want your opinion. Respond to this single yes or no question either by writing to nickjoseph@indianaforestalliance.org or calling 317-602-3692. The question: "State Parks charge entrance fees to maintain facilities for the public. If you knew that it would reduce logging by half, would you be willing to pay a \$5 recreation fee per visit for hiking or camping in our state forests?" Our goal is 300 responses. We appreciate your opinion!

Thanks to IFA donors

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April 15, 2017 - April 15, 2018



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